



# Plant Materials Fact Sheet

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Temple, TX

September 1999

## STREAMBANK AND SHORELINE PROTECTION CONSERVATION PRACTICE 580



### DEFINITION

Using vegetation or structures to stabilize and protect banks of streams, lakes, estuaries, or excavated channels against scour and erosion.

### PURPOSE

1. Prevent loss of land or damage to property and facilities adjacent to banks.
2. Maintain the capacity of a channel and control meander that would effect structures downstream.
3. Reduce the sediment load of the channel and improve the stream for recreation or as a habitat for fish and wildlife.

### CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE PLANTING

- Identify the primary purpose of the practice (bank or shoreline protection, filtering sediment).

- Identify the season of use (spring, summer, fall, or winter). The season of use will determine whether cool season plants, warm season plants, or a mix of both will provide adequate vegetative cover.
- Identify environmental factors affecting installation (soils, topography, precipitation, and seasonal temperature, shade tolerance of species).
- Locate available trees, shrubs, or grass species
- Cropland and rangeland use affects plant selection and management.

The following table is a partial list of many suitable plants:

COMMON NAME	FLOOD TOLERANCE	DROUGHT TOLERANCE	SHADE TOLERANCE	SALT TOLERANCE
<b>GRASSES</b>				
Switchgrass	✓	✓		
Common Reed	✓			✓
Big Sacaton	✓	✓		✓
Smooth Cordgrass	✓	✓		✓
Marshhay Cordgrass	✓			✓
Gulf Cordgrass	✓	✓		✓
Prairie Cordgrass	✓			✓
<b>TREES AND SHRUBS</b>				
Buttonbush	✓	✓	✓	
Purpleosier Willow*	✓			
Dwarf Willow	✓			
Cypress	✓	✓		
Black Gum				
Marsh Elder	✓	✓		✓
Black Locust		✓		
Black Willow	✓			
Roughleaf Dogwood		✓		
False Indigo		✓	✓	
<b>AQUATICS</b>				
Bullrush spp.	✓			
Cattails spp.	✓			

\* Denotes introduced species

Additional information relating to species varieties, adaptability, installation, and management of these plants can be found in literature for Streambank and Shoreline Protection practice 580 and Riparian Forest Buffer Practice 391. These materials can be obtained from your local Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office.



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